

Franklin Aldi closed until mid-April

BY TESSA M. CHRISTENSEN

Look for an updated Aldi at 1311 E. Franklin Ave. in mid-April.

The Franklin Aldi store closed on Jan. 28, 2018 for an extensive remodeling that will make the store over into one similar to the new Aldi that opened in the former Rainbow Foods at 2912 28th Ave. S. It will feature wider aisles, more refrigerated items and a wider selection of fresh foods.

"The new store layout will provide an improved in-store experience and features additional

refrigeration space to accommodate even more fresh, healthy and convenient products," according to Matt Lilla, Aldi's Faribault division vice president.

Compared to last year, 20 percent of the Aldi product selection is new -- and the company isn't finished. In all, the company's national growth plan calls for increasing its fresh food selection by 40 percent with many organic, convenient and easy-to-prepare options.

ALDI Continued on page 4



TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Finding it hard to get to the grocery store since the Franklin Aldi's closed? First-time Instacart customers in Minneapolis-St. Paul can receive \$10 off their first three ALDI orders of \$35 or more with the code ALDIDELIVERY472***. More options on page 4.

Remodel will remake store with wider aisles, more fresh foods, and more refrigerated products

THEY WALKED FOR WOMEN ON VALENTINE'S DAY



TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Over 1,200 people braved the winter weather to march for missing and murdered Indigenous women on Feb. 14, 2019. Twenty-nine-year-old Amber Brunelle, who works in South Minneapolis, was walking to raise awareness of this issue. She pointed out, "Most cities don't have a number on how many Indigenous women are missing in this country." She is pushing for policy changes that will pinpoint why so many Indigenous woman are targeted and what can be done to fix the problem. Brunelle was walking in memory of her friend Brandi, who was murdered 1.5 years ago. "We're all part of the same life. We all live here," Brunelle said. "I just want the violence against Indigenous women and men to stop."

Organized by Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center with help from the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and others, this year's walk was filmed by TPT-Twin Cities PBS for an upcoming documentary. All My Relations Arts brought equipment so that participants could create screen prints stating "Justice! For Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women" and "Bring Her Home," and then wear the red fabric during the walk. Stations set up inside the Minneapolis American Indian Center, where the walk began and ended, educated attendees on the sexual violence and sex trafficking issues facing Native peoples in North America.

WALK Continued on page 5

One of busiest food shelves right here

Donate or check out Waite House Food Shelf during March Minnesota FoodShare Campaign

BY MEGHAN MUFFETT

Located right here in the Phillips community, the food shelf at Waite House Community Center is one of the busiest in the Twin Cities, serving nearly 4,000 families on an annual basis.

It serves as a much needed resource for many single-family households, homeless and highly mobile community members,

seniors, immigrants, and others who -- for a variety of reasons -- are having a tough time making ends meet.

Yet, in the past four years, the amount of participants have increased 25% while funding changes have been minimal.

This means that more than ever, this March is a critical time for the Waite House food shelf to gar-

ner support. During the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, both monetary and food donations made to Waite House (and all participating food shelves) will be partially matched by the group Minnesota FoodShare.

Also, did you know that because Waite House is a nonprofit with 'bulk purchasing abilities,' they can purchase even more food to mul-

tiply your dollar's buying power? AKA, they are able to stretch your \$1 into \$7, allowing them to purchase even more fresh, healthy, and culturally appropriate food to serve our community members.

Your help is needed. Last year, the food shelf distributed 275,000 pounds of food,

FOOD Continued on page 4

BE INVOLVED

Controversy reaches crisis

Community drive to transform Roof Depot site into urban farm and local jobs is at a critical point. City staff saying that only the city will have use of the site -- despite council vote.

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don't say much, see what the little
independent ones say."
- Wendell Phillips (1811-1884)

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"Let me make the newspaper and I care not who makes the religion and the laws." - Wendell Phillips

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Transit

Route changes and the luck of the Irish

By JOHN CHARLES WILSON

Here we are, coming up on the Spring "pick." For those of you not familiar with the term, that is when Metro Transit drivers get to pick their piece of work for the next three months, in order of seniority. That is also when route and schedule changes are made, unless a state of emergency trumps waiting for the next pick. The schedules based on this pick go into effect March 9, 2019.

Fortunately, changes affecting the Phillips neighborhood are fairly minor. They are:

- Extra buses eastbound on Route 2 on weekday and Saturday nights.

- Minor schedule adjustments on Routes 2, 5, 9, 14, 19, and 22.

- Routes which currently run on 8th Street downtown are changing over to 6th Street due to construction. These include Routes 5, 9, 19, 22, and 39. This also means the Ramp A/7th Street Transit Center will not be in use. Route 39 will start and end at the Ramp B/5th Street Transit Center instead. Route 14 already goes through Ramp B/5th Street.

- A few early morning and late night buses on Sundays on Route 9 will be abolished.

- Route 14 will be changing over from 4th Street to 7th Street downtown.

**FREE BUS AND TRAIN RIDES
A DAY EARLY THIS YEAR**

Metro Transit is usually free



twice a year: New Year's Eve and Saint Patrick's Day. Because Saint Patrick's Day is on a Sunday, the Minneapolis and Saint Paul parades are going to be held the day before, and most of the drinking and partying will probably be on Saturday, too. Therefore, we will be getting our free transit a day early. From 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. the evening of Saturday, March 16, 2019, Miller Coors will be picking up the tab for our bus and train rides.

This is a good deal for everyone whether or not they drink, but it's an especially great deal for everyone who doesn't get arrested for driving while intoxicated, or worse yet, get into an accident.

Please use this service if you're going to get drunk anywhere except at home. I'd like to have you around to read this column next month!

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What's Up at the Franklin Community Library | MARCH 2019

1314 E. Franklin Avenue | 612-543-6925 | www.hclib.org
M, F, Sa: 9AM-5PM • T, W, Th: 9AM-8PM • Su: 12-5PM

By ERIN THOMASSON

Family Storytime

Fridays, 10:30-11 am

For children of all ages and their caregivers. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in a format appropriate for young children. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

Teen Programs

Urban 4-H Club

Tuesdays, 5-7PM

We do everything from urban gardening to digital photo/video to theater. Partner: University of Minnesota.

Teen Tech Workshop

Wednesdays, 5-6:30PM

Get creative and make music, videos, animation and other projects using both high- and low-tech tools, everything from iPads and 3D printers to synthesizers and sewing machines. Led by the library's Teen Tech Squad.

Dhalinta Horumar sare rabta / Young Achievers

Wednesdays, 4:30-6 PM

U dabaaldag Dhaqanka Soomalida, sameysa saaxiibo cusub iyo in aad isticmaasho hab nololeed cafiimaad leh. Lamaane: WellShare International. Celebrate Somali culture, make new friends and practice healthy lifestyles. Partner: WellShare International.

Teen Anime Club

Saturday, March 6, 3-4:30 PM

Discuss manga and share artwork. Something different every time!

Adult Programs

Open Crafting

Monday, March 4, 1-3PM

Looking for a space to sew, knit or work on other crafts? Bring your current project and materials and join us! Sewing machines, knitting needles and other equipment will be available for your use.

Fasal furan oo ku Saabsan Barashada Teknoolojiga Maktabadda/Library Technology Open Lab

Wednesdays, Mar. 6 & 13, 10:30AM-12PM

Registration Required. Kaalay oo baro Teknoolojiga maktabadda. Shaqaalaha waxey ku bilaabi doonaan Open lab-ka

20-daqiigo oo horudhac ku saabsan teknoolojiga maktabadda. Mowduucyada laga hadli doono waxaa ka mid ah: sidaad u isticmaali laheyd kombiyuutarada maktabada, Internet-ka iyo Email-lada, asturnaanta, printer-rada iyo Scanner, iyo sidaad buugaagta uga raadsan laheyd bogga maktabada iyo kheyraadka laga helaba. Markuu mowduuca horidhaciisa lasiiyo, ka qeyb galayaasha waxey waqti u heli doonaan iney sii dabaqaan waxey barten iyadoo shaqaalahana diyaar u ahaan doonaan iney uga jawaabaan su'aalhooda mid-midna u caawiyaan.

Come and explore library technology. Staff will start each Open Lab with a 20-minute orientation to library technology. Following the orientation, participants will have time to explore on their own, while staff will be available for questions and one-on-one support. March 6 Topic: Creating a library account, using the library catalog. March 13 Topic: Online library databases for learning, literacy and employment.

Franklin Technology Hour Thursdays, 12-1pm

Do you want to explore new technology, practice using a computer program, or learn more about the library's electronic resources? Then come to Franklin Technology Hour! Bring your questions or come and explore a spotlighted resource.

Cards and Board Games

Saturday, March 16, 2-4:30PM

Chess, Scrabble®, backgammon, cribbage, Mahjong and more! Come play a variety of games with new or old friends. Games are provided, or bring a favorite from home.

Franklin Learning Center:

612-543-6934 fllc@hclib.org

The Franklin Learning Center offers free, one-to-one tutoring for adults who are learning English and math, preparing for the GED and citizenship exams, and gaining life skills. We are always looking for community volunteers! No experience necessary; we provide training and materials. Contact us at 952-847-2934 or fllc@hclib.org.

Join your neighbors and other Community Partners for updates from Local City Government, 3rd Precinct Police. Meeting will take place at the Center for Changing Lives in the Centrum Room (2400 Park Avenue). Free parking is available in the rear of building off Oakland Ave. Free delivery pizza and beverages will be provided! If you would like more information or would like to get involved with the neighborhood please contact Crystal at 612-879-5383 or email her at pwno2005@yahoo.com.



By CRYSTAL WINDSCHITL

Phillips West Neighborhood

Upcoming Events:

Check out the Phillips West Website: www.phillipswest.info

**Community meeting
March 7 (Thursday) 6-7 PM**

Outgoing Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin reflects on public service



COURTESY OF PETER MCLAUGHLIN

Former District 4 Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin speaks during the South Minneapolis Hub opening along Lake Street and Hiawatha Ave.. The South Minneapolis Hub represents a move to decentralize human services from downtown to make it easier for people to get access the county’s social services at a site that’s more accessible.



WALTER GRIFFIN

Phillips West Neighborhood Organization and Midtown Phillips thank Peter McLaughlin for his Outstanding Service Representing Phillips residents from 1985-2018 during the 22nd Annual Phillips West Winter Social on Feb. 21. Left to right, Minneapolis Police Third Precinct Inspector Michael Sullivan, PWNO Executive Director Crystal Windschitl, PWNO Board Chair Rev. Jacob Rock, Peter McLaughlin, Jana Metge of Midtown Phillips, and Ryan SanCartier, senior aide of 6th Ward Council Member Abdi Warsame. The event brought together about 300 neighbors for a huge smorgasbord of supper choices by several Phillips West institutions on a serving table the length of the large assembly room. The evening was prefaced by institutional exhibitors in the Changing Lives Lobby at 2400 Park Ave. each decorated with institutional banners, paraphernalia, gifts like candy bars and ballpoint pens and a whole lot of information by institutional representatives. PWNO also honored former state Representative Karen Clark an award at the Phillips Wide Fall Clean Sweep in October for her service.

PATRON SAINT OF LOST CAUSES

BY TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

EDITOR’S NOTE: This is part two of a two-part series that originally appeared in the Longfellow/Nokomis Messenger. The first section ran in the February 2019 edition of The Alley.

If there’s one thing that defines Peter McLaughlin’s career as a public servant, it may be his attitude towards what others consider to be lost causes.

“I’m sort of the Patron Saint of Lost Causes,” admitted McLaughlin.

There’s something about certain projects that kept him searching for solutions, even over decades, observed McLaughlin, who was elected as District 4 Hennepin County Commissioner first in 1990 and left office in December.

Take the Fort Snelling Upper Post, a group of 27 historic buildings that were falling apart. There wasn’t a fund of money available to pay for fixing the buildings nor anyone interested in using them. But McLaughlin believed they should be saved and so he kept talking about it with others. When the site was listed as one of the top endangered historic sites in the United States, he realized there might be a source of workers he could tap into. Even better, the county was already paying for the Sentence-To-Service crews so it wouldn’t cost additional money.

When one of the buildings collapsed, others also started shuffling things around, working hard to find funds to pay for building materials to stabilize the buildings.

A group began meeting to talk about the future of the site, and McLaughlin chaired the Fort Snelling Upper Post Task Force. They put together a land use plan and waited for the right opportunity.

It came in 2018 when the

Plymouth-based Dominion, no stranger to historical renovation projects, and the Department of Natural Resources struck a deal to redevelop the site into 176 units of affordable housing. Soon veterans and families will be breathing new life into the 47-acre site that’s the last unincorporated area of Hennepin County.

SYSTEMATIC CHANGE FOR LIBRARIES

Things shifted for McLaughlin 12 years ago. His daughter was born, and he battled prostate cancer. He stated, “I decided at that point to work on bigger projects.”

McLaughlin added, “You can do individual projects, but you have to turn them into something bigger, into systematic change.”

Around the same time Minneapolis started closing libraries -- an option they hadn’t done even during the Great Depression, McLaughlin pointed out. And they planned to close more. Two of the three closed libraries were in McLaughlin’s district, Roosevelt and Southeast.

McLaughlin learned about the issues while attending a spaghetti dinner in the basement of a Lutheran church in his district. He didn’t hesitate about taking this project on. He supports walkable, bikeable cities, and to have that one needs destinations such as libraries. “They are places that anchor neighborhoods,” observed McLaughlin.

There had been discussions about merging the Minneapolis Library and the Hennepin County Library systems for years, but it had never progressed. McLaughlin believed the time had come, and he worked to make the merger happen within a few months.

There were issues, such as the suburban libraries worried their money was going into a

declining system, and the city libraries worried their referendum money would be used outside Minneapolis. But a deal was struck, and the merger official on Jan. 1, 2008.

“Libraries are one of the great democratic services we provide,” stated McLaughlin. “It needed to be solid.”

Since the merger, all the closed libraries have been re-opened, nearly every library in the system has been renovated (the last project just began), and hours added. For the first time since the Kenendy administration, Central Library downtown is open seven days a week.

FIGHT FOR LIGHTRAIL

Neighbors stopped the freeway from going in during the 1960s, but then nothing happened along the giant swath of right-of-way along Hiawatha Ave. for years. It took until 1985 to reach a deal about what the road would look like, and until the early 1990s to finish the project. Meanwhile, discussions had gone back and forth for years about lightrail lines and which one should be the first.

“I took on the fight for rail transit,” McLaughlin said. He knew one of his biggest battles was to reach an agreement between Hennepin and Ramsey counties, and keep that in place until federal and state funding was appropriated and work could begin. It was agreed that because right-of-way was available along Hiawatha and the Environment Impact Statement already done (because of the road work) that it would be the pilot project.

Governor Carlson signed off on a \$40 million appropriation, and then Governor Ventura (who had attended Roosevelt High School) made the line a priority. A bonding bill was passed in 1999 during Ventura’s first year in office that included the last \$60

million needed from the state.

“I always told people, we put all our chips on red 26 and spun the wheel,” said McLaughlin.

Once the Blue Line was operating (2004), the Green Line followed in 2014, connecting Minneapolis and St. Paul along University Ave. The Southwest extension of the Green Line is next. When McLaughlin attended the groundbreaking on Nov. 30, 2018, he brought the same shovel he used at the Blue Line groundbreaking.

McLaughlin’s focus on “transit ways” has also included bus lines (such as the Orange line that will be going down 35W), and he’s had a whiteboard in his office for decades that shows a transit map of the region.

“Why do I care so much about this? Transit reinforces the center as the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul,” McLaughlin explained. It goes back to the lessons he learned in Trenton, N.J. and from Sears, and the exodus of people from the city that happened across the nation. How do you keep people in the city? If you’re McLaughlin, you give them something to stay for.

“It’s all part of how do we attract people to the city and make a more prosperous life?” McLaughlin said.

DEVELOPMENT HAS COME

Some of the lightrail supports, including McLaughlin, promised that there would be development along the lines. Every year for many years, a Star Tribune reporter would call him to ask when development was going to happen.

After a recession and years of planning, in 2015 McLaughlin helped broker a deal for the county to anchor a large development at Hiawatha Ave. and Lake St., and things began to snowball.

In addition to the new de-

velopment on the southwest side of Lake and Hiawatha, there is a new building on the north side, and another multi-story apartment building a few blocks south. Several buildings are planned around the 38th St. Station, and Longfellow Stations was built there on the southeast side a few years ago. A major development is in the works at 46th St., and five more are in progress.

McLaughlin tries to work within existing plans to make other things happen.

Some have accused him of being too patient. “It takes a long time to work these puzzles out,” he observed.

Hennepin County had already decided to decentralize its services and spread out to more convenient buildings within the communities it serves. It needed a hub somewhere in south Minneapolis, so McLaughlin pitched the idea of putting a service center at Hiawatha and Lake. It became part of a development that will add more than 500 housing units and a permanent space for the Midtown Farmers’ Market. The first housing unit opened on Dec. 1, 2018. Next year, a site that wasn’t generating any tax revenue while owned entirely by Minneapolis Schools will generate \$300,000 in property taxes and that’s just a start.

“You can’t do all the things you want to do with new money,” said McLaughlin. “You’ve got to do it with money you were going to spend anyway. You have to be intentional about it.”

BATTLING CRIME AND BUILDING A GREENWAY

The Midtown Greenway is an iconic part of south Minneapolis now, but when McLaughlin started his career it was a trench where folks threw their old mattresses and trash.

PATRON Continued on page 5

Food resources

- Messiah Lutheran/Community Bridge, 2400 Park Ave. S., 612-746-4108 or 612-871-8831. Tuesdays, noon: Free hot meal following community Bible study. It is not required to attend the Bible study, but the food will be served at noon and go quickly. Thursdays, noon: free hot meals except on holidays. Food shelf: second Fridays and fourth Saturdays, 8-11 a.m.

- Community Emergency Services, 1900 11th Ave., 612-870-1125. Food shelf, Monday-Thursday; people start lining up at 10:30 a.m. Meals on Wheels, weekdays, noon: free hot lunch meal delivery service available to ages 60+ or people with limited mobility.

- MN Food Helpline, 1-800-936-1154, weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Calls connect residents with resources like SNAP, food shelves, farmers markets, meal programs and discount grocery programs.

- Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS), 651-484-8241 or 800-365-0270, box of nutritious food each month to eligible low-income seniors, 60 years and over. Boxes are distributed at many locations; call Second Harvest for more information about eligibility, applications, and delivery sites.

- Help at Your Door is a non-profit offering a grocery delivery service for elderly and people with disabilities; people can use a printable product catalog to order food via phone or online. The service is available on a sliding scale from \$5-\$35 with a minimum order of \$40. Participants can use EBT to pay for groceries, unless people get cash benefits on their EBT card. In the 55404 zip code, people would get called on Wednesday or Thursday for their order and then have groceries delivered the following Tuesday. More info at <https://helpatyourdoor.org/services/>, (651) 642-1892.

- Fare for All is an organization that purchases fresh produce and frozen meat in bulk from wholesalers and manufactures, and then pre-packs the produce and meat into affordable food packages that range in price from \$10-\$30. It then sells the packages at delivery sites once a month. Cash, credit, debit and SNAP accepted; anyone is able to participate. No pre-payment or pre-registration required. Pricing and package details available at <https://fareforall.org/pricing/>. There is a current Fare For All pick-up site at Open Arms of MN, located .6 miles away from the Aldi at 2500 Bloomington Ave S (<https://fareforall.org/directory/listing/minneapolis-little-earth-of-united-tribes-2>). Winter/spring schedule for the Open Arms site is Friday from 1-3 p.m. on March 22 and April 19.

- Minneapolis' staple foods ordinance (SFO) is a local law that requires grocery stores – including most corner stores, gas stations, and pharmacies – to stock nutritious foods in six basic categories (dairy/dairy alternatives, animal and vegetable proteins, fruits and vegetables, 100% juice, whole grains, and beans/peas/lentils). There are several stores located near Aldi and stocked most or all of the required staple foods when last inspected (summer 2018).

Aldi closed until mid-April

From page 1

With that model, Aldi hopes to double its sales again over the next five years.

The Franklin Aldi is one of 28 Aldi stores being remodeled and expanded in the Minneapolis-St. Paul and the surrounding metropolitan area in 2019. In all, Aldi is investing \$1.9 billion to remodel more than 1,300 U.S. ALDI stores by the end of 2020.

The remodeled store at Franklin will bump the size of the store floor from 10,000 to 13,000 square feet of sales floor space.

Aldi buildings feature open ceilings, natural lighting and environmentally-friendly construction materials. There are only four or five aisles, and every Aldi has a similar layout.

"This is a significant investment in our stores, but it's really an investment in our shoppers," remarked Lilla. "We're evolving

to meet their changing tastes and needs."

He added, "As one of the fastest-growing retailers with a long history in the U.S., we're confident in our current business model. We're always looking for ways to innovate but we don't get distracted by what's happening across the industry. We're focused on providing people with outstanding value on quality food and products."

Aldi caters to shoppers who are pressed for time and money.

"We pioneered a model that gives people more of both," observed Lilla. "Our shopping experience is designed to make life easier for people and to offer high-quality food at affordable prices."

SHINGOBBEE PROJECT

The project is being managed by Shingobee, a nationally-acclaimed commercial construction and development company. With two offices

located in Minnesota, Shingobee operates throughout the upper Midwest. It was founded in 1980 by Gae Veit, a Native American woman who retired in 2007. In September 2018, the Loretto-based company returned to its roots as a woman-led construction company when industry veteran and 14-year employee Nancy Samson became its new owner, president and CEO. She previously worked as the CFO and corporate secretary/treasurer.

Recent Shingobee projects include a Courtyard by Marriott hotel in St. Louis Park, the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in Woodbury, the Gardner School in Edina, and Crisp and Green in Dinkytown.

Shingobee Project manager Shane Johnson said they appreciate the business they get from Aldi. "Each project has its own set of challenges and it is rewarding at the end," Johnson observed.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WAITE HOUSE

Waite House staff, Jovita (left), assists a community member in the Waite House Food Shelf.

One of busiest food shelves

From page 1

with expectations to provide an even greater amount this year. Please consider supporting the health and wellness of your neighbors and fellow community members by making a donation this March.

Here's how you can support the Pillsbury United Communities - Waite House Food Shelf:

All monetary and food donations made through the month of March will be partially matched by Minnesota FoodShare.

- Donate money. You can donate online at www.pillsburyunited.org or drop off a check at the center.

- Donate food. Food donations can be delivered any time during

business hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special accommodations could be made to receive donations at other times if needed. See contact information below. Suggested donation items include: Oil, flour, cooking spices, Masa (like Maseca), salt and pepper, low sodium soups, and oatmeal.

Would you like to use the food shelf?

Here's what you need to know:

- Families and individuals can visit the food shelf once each month. For the first visit, there is a short registration process in which a form of identification for each member of the household will need to be provided.

- Please bring your own bags.

Hours: Mondays and Fridays: 1-5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10 a.m. to noon and 2-5 p.m.

Also – Check out our free Community Café from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays-Fridays or Produce Days every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Find more details online at pillsburyunited.org/waite-house or by calling 612-721-1681.

Questions or want to get more involved?

Contact Meghan: 612.455.0388, meghanm@pillsburyunited.org.

Pillsbury United Communities – Waite House is located at 2323 11th Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55407.

Ecological plan

The first ever draft Minneapolis Parks Ecological System Plan has opened for 45-day comment period and will close on April 1. The plan sets a vision for making more environmentally friendly parks and public land in Minneapolis so that the city can be cleaner, greener, cooler and more efficient.

First E. African specialist

Numan Shaikh is the Minneapolis Neighborhood and Community Relations department's full time East African Community Specialist. Numan initially joined NCR in a temporary capacity, and will now replace Abdirashid Ahmed, who moved on from his role in November of 2018.

Solar Egg opens

Reflect: Bigert & Bergström is a new, limited-time American Swedish Institute experiential exhibition showcasing Solar Egg, a social sculpture and a working sauna. See it in the ASI outdoor Courtyard March 6 to April 28, (2600 Park Ave. To schedule sauna sessions visit ASImn.org.

UnBank and UnMission with common wall and uncommon purpose

BY HARVEY WINJE

The corner storefront that was Roger Beck Florist until November 2018 at 1100 E. Franklin Ave. is, apparently, now owned by and about to become the UnBank currently at 1009 E. Franklin after initially being restricted from being there because it was too close to a "mission" by city zoning requirements.

The Marie Sandvik Center is next door with only parting walls between. Marie Sandvik Center has reportedly written to the city saying, "it is not a mission," which became the determinant factor giving affirmation to UnBank after an appeal of the city's original denial.

Historically, businesses like UnBank and plasma centers being in a retail and residential area are seen as predators of poor people and people living within difficult circumstances. The presence of such businesses is usually a characteristic that reduces signals an area's decline and causes a drop in property values.

This property's value and advantage to E. Franklin Ave.'s vast improvements of the last three decades were raised when it was improved from Mr. Arthur's 3.2 Bar to the Wendell Phillips Federal Community Credit Union in 1996. Ironically, that credit union had the opposite mission and ethic of helping local people into better navigate financial circumstances and improve their well being rather than taking advantage of them.

The "bottom line" is that UnBank presence at this prominent corner hurts the "bottom line" and lives of its clientele and of other businesses and the avenue generally.

Puppet Works opens at HOBT March 15

Tara Fahey, Akiko, Kallie Melvin, and Andrew Young will premiere four original puppet works at In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre (HOBT) this March, as part of HOBT's artist incubator program, Puppet Lab. This year's performances explore themes of identity, ancestry, and legacy, through the lens of the artist's personal journeys.

"These remarkable artists have been working hard since August and now they are ready for you the audience. I have been honored to support these four visionary artists," says HOBT Director of Performance Programs, Alison Heimstead.

This will be Puppet Lab's eight year of supporting radical, genre-expanding performances. The Puppet Lab program is directed by Alison Heimstead and is made possible by generous support from the Jerome Foundation. More at www.hobt.org.

PATRON SAINT OF LOST CAUSES

From page 3

The city had just been dubbed "Murderopolis" by the New York Times, and south Minneapolis was the epicenter of the crime issues facing the city.

"I used to say if you're going to go down to the Greenway to do an inspection, you need to be sure to get your tetanus shot up to date," said McLaughlin.

He got involved with the Midtown Community Works Partnership, and they worked to convince first Honeywell and then Wells Fargo when they took over the Honeywell facility at 600 S. 4th St. to support the Greenway project.

Construction on the line began in 2000 and the final phase was done in 2007. Organizers are now considering an extension across a rail bridge to St. Paul.

"We said there would be development along the trench, and people laughed at us 20 years ago," recalled McLaughlin. "Success will beget more success – and that's what happened."

The line has become one of the busiest bikeways in Minnesota and recognized as the best urban bike trail in the nation. Plus, new housing and retail has gone in along the trail.

The trail was one of several prongs of an approach focused on building up the neighborhood and reducing crime.

"You're not going to solve crime without a comprehensive approach," observed McLaughlin, or solve racism. For him, one part always includes adding jobs, and so he worked to build up what was already existing in the neighborhood, including Wells Fargo and Abbott hospital through work with the Phillips Partnership. They supported Abbot's heart hospital expansion, keeping it in the city versus out in the suburbs.

They offered funds to rehabilitate old homes and increase the number of owner-occupied houses, supported by the Project for Pride in Living (PPL) Salvagio Fund.

The group worked to create

the Pathways Program to provide training at the Minneapolis College for jobs at Abbott, as well as jobs within the county itself.

McLaughlin once found himself in the elevator with three women who were part of the Pathways program. As they got out, one told him, "This job changed my life."

"That's why I do this work," remarked McLaughlin.

ENTREPRENEURIAL POLICY MAKER

McLaughlin has approached policy making by trying to fix community problems, even when there was no clear role for Hennepin County in the solution, pointed out his principal aide Brian Shekelton.

"Life's problems aren't categorized by a series of neat silos, and he believes that silos shouldn't define the way to fix problems.

"Before Commissioner McLaughlin took office Hennepin County wasn't helping to building train lines, it wasn't helping to build permanent homes for farmers markets, it wasn't leading a partnership to build Greenways (Midtown was a community development project, not just a transportation/recreation project), it wasn't investing in Minneapolis parks or Minneapolis libraries, it wasn't creating train stations like Target Field Station, and it didn't have a tree nursery to replenish the lost Ash trees.

"I've always thought that of Peter McLaughlin as an entrepreneurial policy maker, and I think that's why he has been able to achieve so many goals."

WHAT'S NEXT?

So, what's next for the man who left office in December after 28 years?

He's not sure yet.

"I've devoted my entire adult life to community work," he said.

He doesn't think he's done yet.

"I'm still a believer that government can play a positive role in changing people's lives," remarked McLaughlin.



TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Kristin Jones (third from left) and her family walk in memory of her mother, Delma Elizabeth Hardy, who was murdered Aug. 7, 1996, outside Chicago, Ill., a day before her 24th birthday.

MURDERED & MISSING but not forgotten

From page 1

BY TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Murder is the third-leading cause of death among American Indian/Alaska Native women and rates of violence on reservations can be up to 10 times higher than the national average, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The National Crime Information Center reports that, in 2016, there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, although the U.S. Department of Justice's federal missing persons database, NamUs, only logged 116 cases.

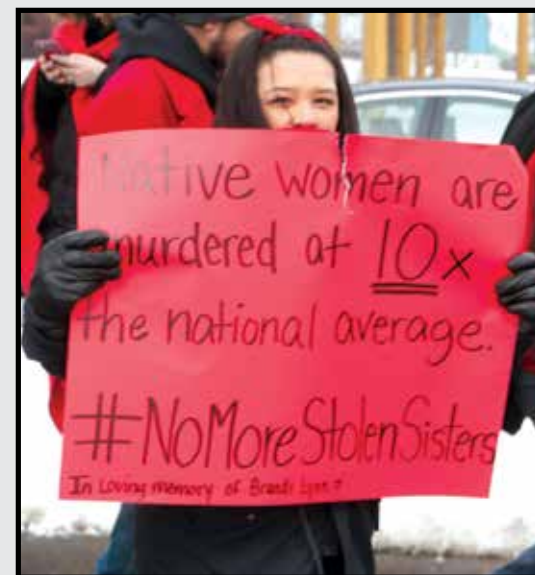
And no research has been done on rates of such violence among American Indian and Alaska Native women living in urban areas despite the fact that approximately 71% of American Indian and Alaska Natives live in urban areas, pointed out a study done by the Urban Indian Health Institute in 2018.

For Kristin Jones, these statistics are more than numbers. Her mother, Delma Elizabeth Hardy, went missing when she was six. It took 12 years for the family to find out the pregnant woman had been murdered and buried in Chicago, and to bring her body home. Authorities wouldn't take a missing report when the 23-year-old mother of three from Ponemah, Minn. went missing, pointed out Jones.

"Our people are murdered and missing every day," remarked Jones' aunt, Melody Johnson.

"Law enforcement is no help."

Jones, her five children, Johnson and other family members participated in the Feb. 14, 2019 walk to make sure women like Hardy are not forgotten.



TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

Twenty-nine-year-old Amber Brunelle, who works in South Minneapolis, was walking in memory of her friend Brandi Lynn, who was murdered 1.5 years ago. "I just want the violence against Indigenous women and men to stop," Brunelle said.

Movie corner

'Stan and Ollie' delightful

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II
oldschoolmovies.wordpress.com
howardmcquitter68@gmail.com

2019, Sony Pictures
4.5 out of 5

A delightful, modest biopic about Stan Laurel (Steve Coogan) and Oliver Hardy (John C. Reilly), the best comedy duo in Hollywood at its golden age.



Director Jon S. Baird ("Filth" 2014, "Cass" 2008) and writer Jeff Pope put together a very fine biopic about Stan and Ollie in phases of their careers. The first is when both comedians worked for Hal Roach Studios in 1937, at the height of their careers; the second phase, fast-forward to 1953, their popularity and money has greatly waned. The lion's share of the film is spent in the latter period.

Stan and Ollie (nicknamed "Babe") go on tour in Great Britain attempting to rekindle their fame even after the two men split for many years. They start

in Newcastle before bouncing around in Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, Nottingham, England; then to Glasgow, Scotland; then to Dublin, Ireland. Their famous acts, including their classic dance duet, in theatre after theatre witnessed half-filled seats. Some people thought Stan and Ollie had died.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the good performances by each man's wife (Ida Kitaeva Laurel played by Nina Arianda and Lucille Hardy played by Shirley Henderson), both women with forbearance joining their spouses on the tour.

Altogether Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy made over 100 movies, but that was in the 1920s-1930s when the two had great success in money and fame. By 1953, they were trying to make a comeback,

but now Ollie is obese and suffering from heart trouble. Although they say some unkind things to each other, and resentments surface going back in the Hal Studio days, the two men love each other.

I grew up in the 1950s and 1960s when Stan (d. 1965) and Ollie (d.1957) were still alive yet well beyond their primes. I watched them on television and on big screens at the local theaters. (The houses in those days was one big screen.) Those are the days when kids went to the movies for 25 cents (it went up to 50 but that's still a deal), seeing a full featured film (in color or black-and-white), adding to it "Laurel and Hardy" "The Three Stooges," a Bugs Bunny cartoon, etc.). As such, "Stan and Ollie" is a must for me.

Cast: John C. Reilly (Oliver



Hardy), Steve Coogan (Stan Laurel), Danny Huston (Hal Roach), Shirley Henderson (Lucille Hardy), Nina Arianda (Ida Kitaeva Laurel). Director: Jon Baird. Writer: Jeff Pope.

Running time: 97 minutes.

SOCIAL HISTORY SET IN STONE

In June 2002, Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For 10 years or so it was the only cemetery in Minnesota designated as an individual landmark. The cemetery's built environment – the fence, caretaker's cottage and flagpole – made it eligible but so did the lives of the people who are buried there.

Their stories are a significant part of the city's social history. It is by no means the complete history of the city during its early years but tells the story of many thousands of the city's early residents including thousands of immigrants and their children.

In 1904, Sarah and Knut Nordeman, mother and son, entered into a suicide pact and overdosed on morphine. Knut survived but Sarah did not, and was buried in Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. Instead of a suicide note, the Nordemans left a signed a six-point explanation of their thinking that included some of their grievances. One point in particular led to some soul-searching on the part of one of the city's major newspapers. The Nordemans, Swedish immigrants, believed that they had been discriminated against because of their "foreignness," and that was what had prevented Knut from finding work that would enable him to support his mother.

Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

By SUE HUNTER WEIR
164TH IN A SERIES

This prompted the Minneapolis Tribune to run a story titled "Sought New Names: Foreign Names Confusing; Jawbreakers Have Been Simplified and Names of Embarrassing Associations Changed." According to the story, the greatest number of people going to court to change their names were Scandinavians "... who got into trouble through the confusion of names which so frequently arises among that people." The reasons that people gave for changing their names varied. Some changed their names in order to blend in by using a name that sounded more "American." Others changed their names in order to stand out, to not be confused with others with the same or similar names.

Some confusion undoubtedly arose because so many people shared the same or similar last names. There are almost 1,000 Johnsons buried in the cemetery and that's not counting all of the variations (Johanson, Jonasson, Johnston, etc.). One of the city's early coroners, obviously unused to Norwegian accents, recorded a Norwegian woman's name



TIM MCCALL

Juraj Hmelowsky--His name was "Americanized" to George Melowsky but spelled correctly on his granite marker.

as Wilmaney Sealotte Yonson, most likely his interpretation of Wilhemina Charlotte Johnson. And, there are slightly more than 800 Andersons, even more when you add in variable spellings. Those two names and their variations account for slightly less than 10% of the cemetery's burials.

First names may not yield as much information about immigration as last names but they provide an interesting social history of names as they have gone in and out of fashion. Some names – Anna, Christine, John and William – are names that were popular in 1900 and remain popular today. Other names have fallen out of fashion: we have a Zebedee, a Melethia, a Philander and a Sylbush. We have two Weatlhys, three Ulysses, 42 Myrtles and 49 Augustas. We don't have any Brittanys, Megans,

Jasons or Troys.

The most common first name really wasn't really a name at all. There are 4,123 infants with no recorded first names of their own – Babe Anderson, Babe Johnson, and so forth – who account for almost 19% of the cemetery's 22,000 burials. Imagine.

Immigrants from Eastern European countries often changed their names to accommodate others who found their names unpronounceable. Jurag Hmelovsky from Slovakia became George Melowsky in America, a name that he used until he died. The correct spelling of his name is etched in granite on his headstone.

When it came to having a name with embarrassing associations Harry H. Hayward probably had a harder time of it than most. He shared first and last names with



TIM MCCALL

Frank Johnson died March 4, 1907; he is one of approximately 1,000 people named Johnson buried in the cemetery.

one of the state's most notorious criminals – Harry T. Hayward. The fact that Harry H. had a different middle initial than Harry T. probably didn't prevent him from being mistaken for the mastermind of Minnesota's crime of the 19th century (who is buried in the cemetery). Harry H. remained in Minneapolis for four years after Harry T.'s trial but ultimately changed his last name to Smith and moved to Chicago.

The city's social history is a fascinating one and is one that can be found, at least in part, in the cemetery's records. When the cemetery reopens in the spring stop in, and explore a part of the city's story.

Controversy reaches crisis *From page 1*

Editor's note: The following was submitted as an open letter by Carol Pass, Cassandra Holmes, Chad Hebert, Clarence Bischoff, Dean Dovolis, Abah Mohamed, Steve Sandberg, and Jose Luis Villaseñor.

On Dec. 7, 2018 the Minneapolis City Council unanimously passed a resolution which we naively thought held out hope for serious community-driven green, sustainable activities in a portion of the Roof Depot site. We waited for over two months for a meeting with Council Member Alondra Cano to explain the "back doors" that appeared to have been opened in her "Staff Direction."

We then had a long-awaited meeting with City Chief Financial Officer Mark Ruff who acknowledged that he helped C.M. Cano write the "Staff Direction" though he stated much was C. M. Cano's work. Although, by statute, members of the City Council hold decision-making power on this property, it is clear that CFO Ruff assumed he was speaking for the City Council when he stated at our Feb. 4, 2019 meeting that "...there will be no non-municipal use..." of anything in the Roof Depot site with the possible exception of off-hour use of the training facility.

To further his point, he stated that he has control over the nearly \$4 million architectural budget, and he will bring his architects his interpretation of the staff direction and that is what they will design.

The staff direction has many possible interpretations. CFO Ruff's is one. However, in our discus-

sions with every council member, except Council Member Goodman who refused to meet with us, there is no possibility the Council vote would have come out unanimously in favor of NOTHING FOR THE COMMUNITY at the Roof Depot site if they had known that was to be the interpretation of the outcome. If that were the case, the staff direction would have included only 3 words "Approve Option A." The remaining two pages would have been irrelevant.

So, either CFO Ruff and staff are usurping city council decision making, or the council members we talked with were not being truthful.

In other words, if CFO Ruff's interpretation prevails, and the city council members were being truthful, then decision-making in Minneapolis is upside down and staff driven with meaningful community engagement totally absent and the power of council decision-making totally neutered!

The facts:

1) After being cheated out of the 7.5-acre Roof Depot site in 2015 by the unethical city threat of eminent domain, and

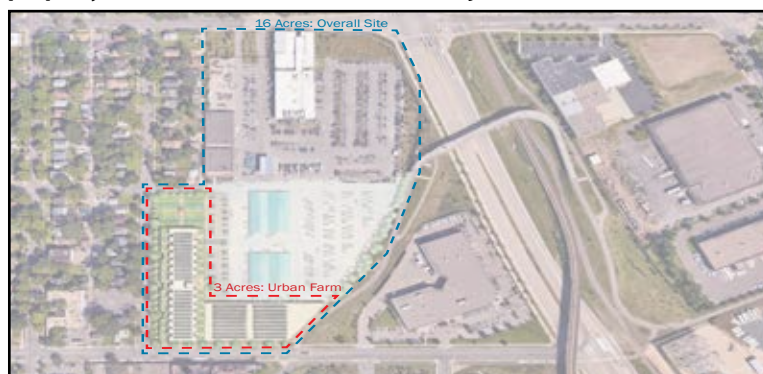
2) After our repeated attempts to negotiate in good faith for a shared use agreement with the city at this site by reducing our request to 3, then 2, and eventually only 1-acre of the site's 16+ acres to be set aside for the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm Project, and

3) After the hope of no more pollution at this site and any hope of environmental and economic justice for this multi-cultural eco-



TESHA M. CHRISTENSEN

The city threatened eminent domain to purchase the Roof Depot site in order to expand its public works facility at 26th and Hiawatha Ave, as viewed from the Sabo bridge. Neighborhood citizens want part of the property for use as an urban farm to create jobs for local residents.



nomically and health challenged neighborhood has been ripped away by a controlling city staff, and/or an ineffective city council and

4) Since this community has no intention of losing this opportunity to create community driven green and second chance job opportunities, desperately needed affordable family housing, organic food production a coffee shop amnd small café and a bicycle repair facility on the Greenway,

Therefore:

1) We strongly suggest that the City Council and Staff seek an alternate site for the Water Yard, or
2) Immediately start meaning-

ful negotiations with EPNI and the Community to go back to our 3-acre option at the Roof Depot site, and

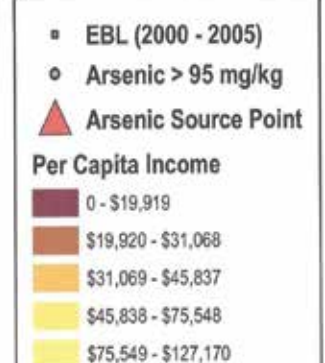
3) Immediately start working to move the other neighborhood polluters out of East Phillips – our people have suffered under the devastating effects of their negligence long enough.

A note to our supporters:

Please contact the mayor, the city council members, the state and federal senators and representatives and the governor and help us make the case for what is right. In your calls insist on real community engagement and development instead of city sponsored increases

Childhood Elevated Blood Lead, Arsenic, and Per Capita Income

Phillips Neighborhood



in pollution and congestion which is in violation of the state's Clark/Berglund Cumulative Pollution legislation: Thank you!



Youth leaders in D.C.

MIGIZI sent 12 youth leaders from Edison, South High, Fridley, Farmington, White Bear Lake, and Augsburg Fairview Academy schools to Washington D.C. to join the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) American Indian Youth Legislative Summit on Feb. 10, 2019. This experience for youth is part of the recent Administration for American Indians I-LEAD grant awarded in October of 2018. In DC, they networked with current Tribal and United States elected leaders on Capitol Hill to discuss pressing issues and further their understanding of Tribal sovereignty and government relations. They had a blast exploring the National Mall and the local DC scene.

‘Vessel’ reception at Norway House

Norway House invites the community to kick off the 2019 gallery season with “Vessel” on Friday, March 1 from 5 to 8 p.m. (913 East Franklin Ave.) “Vessel” features two contemporary Danish ceramic artists, Michael Geertsen and Morten Løbner Espersen in tandem with Minnesota woodcarver, Mike Loeffler, as they explore traditional craft with a contemporary twist. Enjoy food and drink at the Kaffebar. Doors open at 5 p.m. and there will be a short program featuring artist Mike Loeffler at 6:30 p.m. “Vessel” is on display from Jan. 25 to March 10.

Cuban Film Festival planned

It’s now been four years since the beginning of relaxation of relations between the United States and Cuba. However, some policies have been significantly reversed under President Trump, and the U.S. economic blockade continues unabated. Until it ends, the annual Cuban Film Festival in Minneapolis will have two goals: to offer Minnesotans a chance to learn about and appreciate Cuban film and culture and to remind our supporters of the onerous burden that the blockade inflicts on the Cuban people. The festival is scheduled for

six consecutive Thursdays, Feb. 21 to March 28, in partnership with MSP Film Society and with ICAIC (Instituto Cubano de Arte e Industria Cinematográficos), the Cuban Film Institute. In addition, the festival will celebrate two important anniversaries, 60 years of the Cuban Revolution and 60 years of ICAIC.

The lineup of films includes: “The Forbidden Shore” by Ron Chapman, “Los Buenos Demonios (The Good Demons)” by Gerardo Chijona, “Cuban Women in Revolution” by Maria Torrellas, “Sergio and Sergei” by Ernesto Daranas, “El Regreso (The Return)” by Blanca Rosa Blanco, and “Ghost Town to Havana” by Eugene Corr and Roberto Chile. Screenings will take place at 7 p.m. each Thursday at MSP Film Society at St. Anthony Main Theatre, 115 SE Main St.

On Thursday, March 21, Blanca Rosa Blanco, a long-time star of Cuban film and television, will be present at the screening of El Regreso, her directorial debut.

A discussion will follow the first five films and planning for a closing night party is in the works.

Tickets are \$8 general admission and \$6 for students, seniors and MSP Film Society members and can be bought at the box office or online at mspfilm.org. Trailers and further information are available at mspfilm.org/10th-annual-cuban-film-festival and at www.minnesotacuba-committee.org.

Mail delivery delayed

Mail delivery has run into some hiccups across South Minneapolis, due to a shortage of postal carriers and snow- and ice-related injuries that have temporarily sidelined more than two dozen carriers. Because the Postal Service is a federal agency, the city has been in touch with the offices of U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar and

U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, as well as working the city’s postmaster. This situation also underscores the importance of clearing sidewalks and walkways of snow and ice.

MIGIZI welcomes new staff

Jane Zamora is the new Academic Support Specialist at MIGIZI Communications. Her given name is Zoongizi Ikwe (Strong Women). She is an enrolled member of Red Lake Nation, and was born and raised in Minneapolis. Her mother was born and raised in Red Lake; and her father was Mexican and grew up in Montana.



“I started my career in 1988 working with Native youth in Minneapolis which lead me to work for Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) Indian Education, St. Joseph Home for Children, PACER Center, Supervisor of the Crow Head Start Program, and Anoka-Hennepin School District Indian Education,” she said. “Some of my other accomplishments include serving as the President of JOM for MPS, the Richard Green Advisory Council for MPS, Parent Participatory Evaluation team for MPS, and a board member of MIEA (Minnesota Indian Education Association).”

“My passion is to show our Indigenous youth that success is possible and to continue to strive, no matter how sharp those curves can get for them.”

Neighborhoods 2020

Submit your feedback on the Neighborhoods 2020 framework recommendations for the future of neighborhood organizations. The recommendations cover program-

ming, funding, and governance for these groups starting in 2020 and beyond. The city is gathering comments from community members through March 31.

Recommendations are designed to support key goals, including ensuring organizations reflect the communities they serve, simplified participation for all, and fiscal responsibility. The proposed measures include developing an outreach plan, accessing competitive funding based alignment with city-identified priorities, and promoting smart spending, among many others. Submit feedback via email to neighborhoods2020@minneapolis.gov.

Recycling changes

No. 6 plastics and any black plastic are no longer accepted for recycling in Minneapolis. No. 6 plastics are already prohibited for food service uses by Minneapolis’ Green to Go ordinance, and black plastic containers are difficult to sort and can cause contamination in the recycling process.

Changes in the international, national and local recycling markets have made it more important than ever to place only the accepted items in recycling carts. Some of items commonly found in recycling carts that are not accepted include:

- Paper coffee cups, plates and takeout containers – note that these may be able to be put in your organics recycling cart if labeled properly
- Plastic bags, bubble wrap and plastic film
- Large plastic items
- Metal pots, pans and scrap
- Paper egg cartons, napkins and paper towels – note that these may be put in the organics recycling cart.

A quarter of Minneapolis’ garbage could be composted. Call Solid Waste & Recycling at 612-673-2917 for more information.

WHAT YOU SEE



KARISSA KLEVEN, AGE 8

Karissa Kleven took this photo after the freshly fallen snow on Feb. 20, 2019 “because I think these trees are beautiful with the snow on them.”

To be part of our new WHAT YOU SEE feature, post a photo to your Instagram account and tag #alleynews, or email it to copydesk@alleynews.org. All ages encouraged to participate.

WELNA HARDWARE ACE

- KEYS MADE
- LOCKS RE-KEYED
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- RUG DOCTOR RENTAL
- TRAILERS FOR RENT- OPEN AND ONE ENCLOSED
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The EPIC Report – March 2019

www.eastphillips-epic.com

EPIC and the Community have worked to solve many problems, However... Lethal Pollution is STILL Rampant in East Phillips



Where is the JUSTICE?

Once we understand this,
HOW CAN WE IGNORE IT?

In 1978, after the devastating health impact of LEAD was known, LAWS WERE PASSED PROHIBITING LEAD IN GASOLINE AND PAINT.

In the mid '70s after the devastating health impact of ASBESTOS was understood, BUILDING CODES WERE CHANGED PROHIBITING ASBESTOS IN VINYL FLOORING, HOUSE SIDING, PIPE INSULATION etc.

In 2018, after the devastating health impact of POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS (PAHS) were studied and is fully understood, AND NOW, in 2019, when Diesel Exhaust is being called the "NEW ASBESTOS",

WHY IS IT THAT AN ASPHALT PLANT, A FOUNDRY AND HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DIESEL TRUCK TRAFFIC are STILL ALLOWED NEXT TO A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, and a DAY-CARE CENTER IN OUR RESIDENTIAL EAST PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD?

THIS IS UNCONSCIONABLE & MUST BE STOPPED!

For Your Calendar:

EPIC Board of Directors meets on the FIRST Saturday of the month – Next Meetings; Saturday, 3/2/2019, 4/6/2019 & 5/4/2019 at 10:00 A.M. at 2433 Bloomington Ave. S.

EPIC Community Meetings are on the SECOND Thursday – Next Meetings; Thursday, 3/7/19, 4/11/2019 & 5/9/18 at 6:30 PM

EPIC Annual Meeting is on Saturday April 27th starting at 9:30 A.M. at East Phillips Park. Join us for the annual Pancake Breakfast, Board Elections and 2018 Hi-lights.

The East Phillips Community 17th Ave. Gardeners meet on the SECOND Saturday – Next Mtng: Saturday, 3/9/19 & 4/13/19 & 5/11/19 at 9:00 A.M.

* **East Phillips Residents wanting a 2019 Garden Plot, contact Brad Pass at 612-916-8478**

Meeting Locations: Unless noted, meetings and events are held at the fully accessible East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center located at 2307 17th Ave. S.



MIDTOWN PHILLIPS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INC

763.310.4760 | facebook: midtownphillipsminneapolis

BOARD MEETING

Held every second Tuesday

Tuesday, March 12, 6:30-8pm

@ Stewart Park (Arts & Crafts Room)
2700 12th Ave. S., Minneapolis

AGENDA:

- Orientation to 2019 Projects
- Outreach Training
- Community Announcements

COMMUNITY MEETING

Held every fourth Tuesday

Tuesday, March 26, 6:30-8pm

@ St. Paul ELCA
2742 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis

AGENDA:

What does the U.S. Small Business Administration do?

Get information and resources for small business in Minneapolis



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Loan Programs

The Midtown Phillips Neighborhood has partnered with the Center for Energy and Environment Lending Center to help Midtown Phillips residents finance home improvement projects.

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN :

- 0% APR
- \$7,500 maximum loan amount
- No maximum income limit
- Terms up to 7 years
- Eligible improvements are most exterior, major mechanical and energy improvements



3 EASY WAYS TO APPLY

- 1) Apply online at mnlendingcenter.org
- 2) Email loaninfo@mncee.org for a copy of the application
- 3) Call 612-335-5884 to have an application mailed to you

For more information or to apply:

visit www.mnlendingcenter.org or call 612.335.5884

VENTURA VILLAGE



VENTURA VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD

February 2019 NEWS

DON'T TAKE SNOW REMOVAL FOR GRANTED

February 2019 has been a winter month for the books!: with 22 inches of snow over 8 days, Ventura Village relies on Ralph Endres and his team to keep sidewalks and parking lots safe and clear of snow!

One of the challenges of living in Ventura Village is dealing with the ice and snow in winter. Since 1998, Ralph Endres and his team--officially, Master's Groundworks landscaping business--have been removing snow from the parking lots and sidewalks of many of the main businesses and nonprofits of Ventura Village. Some of the most recognizable businesses included in Ralph's route are the Ancient Trader's Market, the Franklin Business Center, the Indian Health Board, the Minneapolis American Indian Center, AICDC, and the PPL properties.

Ralph moved to Minneapolis in the mid-1980s. He attended Bethel Seminary and upon graduating, worked for the American Indian Bible Fellowship (in Phillips) as a pastor, while also working full time for a landscaping company during the week. In 1998, he decided to start his own company, the Master's Groundworks.

Ralph and his wife Cheryl currently co-own the company, and they bring to the operation a thoughtfulness about the community they serve. Until 2016, the business headquarters was located in Ventura Village. Though the site has since moved to nearby Seward, Ralph still primarily takes jobs in Ventura Village and targets his search for employees to residents of the neighborhood. Ralph explains that one of his goals is providing year-round employment for Master's Groundworks employees. In the off-season, Ralph and Cheryl help plant and maintain the flower pots on Franklin Avenue for the Neighborhood Association. They have been involved with many of the renovations and building projects in the neighborhood and with the outdoor maintenance of many properties in Ventura Village.

This winter has been a rewarding but challenging one for Ralph and his employees. Ralph expresses frustration at the city plows that push snow onto sidewalks after his crew has already spent time trying to clear them. Then the city writes citations for snowy sidewalks. Another concern Ralph has is the amount of ice melt being used; he notes that overusing ice melt products is bad for the environment.



VENTURA VILLAGE COMMITTEES: SPOTLIGHT ON WELLNESS AND GARDENING

Being included in a neighborhood organization doesn't just mean sitting through hour-long monthly membership meetings; Ventura Village offers you other ways to be involved. We have four committees that plan and fund projects for residents who want to get out and engage with their neighborhood: these committee offerings include Wellness and Gardening, Crime and Safety, Community Engagement, and Housing & Land Use. The spotlight this month is on **Wellness and Gardening**. Are you dreaming of warmer weather and spring flowers? The Wellness and Gardening committee may be for you. Come to our regular meeting the **last Tuesday of the month**. Or think about doing one or multiple of these activities:

- Take classes at the Mashkiikii Gitigan Urban Garden
- Help beautify Franklin Avenue by planting our 90+ flower pots in May
- Buy fresh produce and other products at the Four Sisters Farmers Market
- Use gardening and yard tools from our Ventura Village tool library to start your own garden
- Get advice on how to start and maintain a garden. We can find you a site if you don't have your own space for a garden.

Contact (612)-874-9070 with any further questions

UPCOMING VENTURA VILLAGE MEETINGS:

Wednesday, March 13th: Board of Directors Meeting: 6 pm	Wednesday, March 13th: General Membership Meeting: 7 pm
Tuesday, March 26th: Community Engagement Committee: 6 pm	Tuesday, March 26th: Wellness, Gardening & Greening: 7 pm
Thursday, March 28th: Housing & Land Committee: 5:30 pm	Thursday, Feb 28th: Crime & Safety Committee: 6:30 pm

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OPINION & COMMENTARY

The Rand Report

Sex workers on Lake St.

By RAND RETTERATH
Part 1 of a series.

For the past six or seven years, many of us have been documenting the rise in prostitution along Lake St. and Bloomington, long known as the sex destination for Minneapolis, as Selby Dale is for St. Paul. Apart from the spectacular increase and the universal agreement that it had been years since we had witnessed such an influx, people were universally upset with the fact that it seemed as though we were chasing our tail. The ebb and flow of sex trafficking is constant.

At about the same time, I listened to an elected official report on sex trafficking of children for which the city had paid a couple thousand dollars and was left wondering what, if anything, I had learned that I could not have gleaned from an episode of Law and Order.

At another unrelated venue I was able to listen to two transgender sex workers talk about their desire for sex work. One indicated she did it because she could, and the other said that she felt safe on the streets.

Finally, while running one day, I came across a young girl waiting for MTC while a creepy man scoped her out. She was unsafe. I stood there until her bus came. It then occurred to me that I typically saw eight school buses picking



up our children on 29th between Cedar and 11th in the midst of the sex trade.

I routinely noticed a large convection of sex workers on 16th and Lake right next to a child care center. I also documented an incredible number of students from Hiawatha Academy picking up the bus at Bloomington and Lake, arguably ground zero for the sex and drug trade along Lake Street.

I noticed statistical anomalies in the clustering and wondered why. With the exception of Bloomington and Lake, the high-density activity seems to occur around the property of a single owner/landlord (currently cluster in or near Clinton, 5th, Portland, Bloomington and 17th).

On a recent run, at 5:30 a.m., I encountered three sex workers at Bloomington and Lake, a John or pimp at 15th and Lake, another sex worker at 15th and Lake, a transgender sex worker on Columbus and Lake followed by her pimp. The pimp was wearing a jacket similar to, if not the exact one, of drug sellers at the Minnehaha Transit station.

There was another sex worker across the street at Columbus. At the Portland bus shelter was another trans sex worker, a cis female sex worker and their pimp. At 5th and Lake there were 2 more sex workers. Finally at Clinton I came across a suspicious vehicle.

Remember, this was all on one run.

Over the years, I have spoken to these men and women. I have found a Lesbian pimping her girl-

friend and at least four gay men working on Lake Street. I have found rent boys in same locations and documented occasions where up to 35% of the known sex-workers at a given time were trans.

All of this got me thinking. We have argued that the sex industry is gender-based, with men oppressing women and forcing them in to this. While that remains statistically relevant, it does not explain the trans, gay and lesbian involvement.

It also upset me that this gender-based argument translates to sentencing. Johns are given gross misdemeanors and sex workers a misdemeanor. That begged another question for me, who has the greater negative impact on my community? The gender-based political argument would have the demand supply of the equation at fault. However, the supply side participants are the ones living here and among us. They are also the ones with the needles and other maladaptive behavior. I have seen them beaten and beating.

I sought to understand. We are getting nowhere with the political gender imbalance argument. It continues to ebb and flow and the community is the ultimate victim.

Among the many books I read to educate myself include:

1. Jonathan Kozol "Savage Inequalities, Children in American Schools" where I concluded that schools MUST be part of the solution. Children, as they mature, independently form social and community bonds with each other. Formerly, through sporting and organized extra-curricular activities, schools provided guidance and direction in the formation of socially acceptable norms for these kids. In their absence, mal-

adaptive norms form. This is how the trans woman mentioned above came to feel "safe" on the streets. She had been indoctrinated into the street life. Then same is said for gangs.

2. Judith Butler "Gender Trouble" where I learned that normal and traditional feminism is wrong to look at natural, essential notion of female or even sex or gender. Gender is a social performance rather than expression of prior reality. This allowed me to consider the alternate non-cis females as part of the discussion and how the rainbow of participants is important to consider in ANY solution.

3. Julia O'Connell Davidson, "Prostitution, Power and Freedom." Davidson's research involves nine countries across the spectrum of sex tourism, adult and child prostitution, procurers and clients. Her conclusion is that prostitution is hugely complex and not just an effect of men oppressing women through violence and intimidation. She also introduced me to the concept of sex-tourism and I came to understand that Lake St, like other locations is a Twin Cities Sex Tourism destination. EVERYONE knows about Lake Street and Selby-Dale as sex destinations. It has been that way for decades.

4. Barbara Gibson, "Male Order, Life Stories From Boys Who Sell Sex." From this author I gleaned how a boy's childhood can relate to their life on the streets, affirming Jonathan Kozol and placing the phenomena of female sex trade again on par with that of male. They experienced all the same issues and concerns women do, from violence to addiction, to HIV, brokers and pimps etc.

5. Editors Scott Cunningham and Manisha Shah "The Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Sex, Oxford University." Most of the economic analysis was over my head; however, it did beg the question of a new approach to the phenomenon. Social and political approaches haven't work, and are subjective rather than objective. This puts the law in the position of choosing who is and is not a victim based on gender rather than behavior and set the stage for the really pivotal paper to follow. It also muddies the discussion by making it emotional rather than factual.

6. Glen Chandler, "The Sins of Jack Saul, the True Story of Dublin Jack and the Cleveland Street Scandal." One man, one all-male brothel, 1880s forward and a chronicle of how he faced all the same issues any sex worker of any period has faced making the issue not one of gender but of profession.

7. Finally and most importantly Seven D. Levitt (University of Chicago Economist) and Sudhir Alladi Venkatesh (Professor of Sociology Columbia University) "An Empirical Analysis of Street-Level Prostitution." By combining transaction-level data on street prostitutes with ethnographic observation and official police force data, they analyzed the economics of prostitution in Chicago.

Rand is 30 year resident of Phillips, homeowner, past block club leader and veteran of many city initiatives and committees who believes we must ALL hold people in power responsible and seek to build community. Neighborhood engagement, economic development and personal growth/responsibility are the cornerstones of community.

Letter to the Editor

Frank reflections

BY FRANK ERICKSON

The Letter to the Editor, "Omissions and distortions abound in libraries, too," by Berman Sanford in The Alley Newspaper February 2019 is an admirable undertaking; to have things listed at libraries under a heading that truly represents what

they were.

Berman, who is a member of the American Library Association, uses the example of trying to search any library catalog under the subject of "Native American Genocide" and you will be unsuccessful.

Yet, he falls into his own trap

when he brings up "World War II" and he does not use quotation marks when referencing the "war." Just as Berman states, "history is euphemistically masked, hidden, under subjects like Choctaw Indians—Relocation," but so is the case with "war."

Murder is masked and hidden under the title of "war."

Now in libraries and schools all over the Western world, people are reading about the 2003 attack

on Iraq by the U.S. as a "war" and not murder. By calling it "war" and attacking people in a "war" manner, the aggression by the U.S. is seen as legitimate. Many will say the "war" was wrong, but will not see it as murder, because it was a "war."

Viewing it this way is to believe that "war" can exist by itself, this is not possible. "War" cannot be a contest like a basketball game that exists by itself. Every single

basketball game ever played was a basketball game, yet how could every single "war" ever fought be a "war?" We have this misguided belief because we define "wars" the same way we define sporting events, from only the physical act of doing it.

Sorry, "war" cannot create itself from doing "war," this means "war" cannot exist by itself; knowing this, how can one be started?

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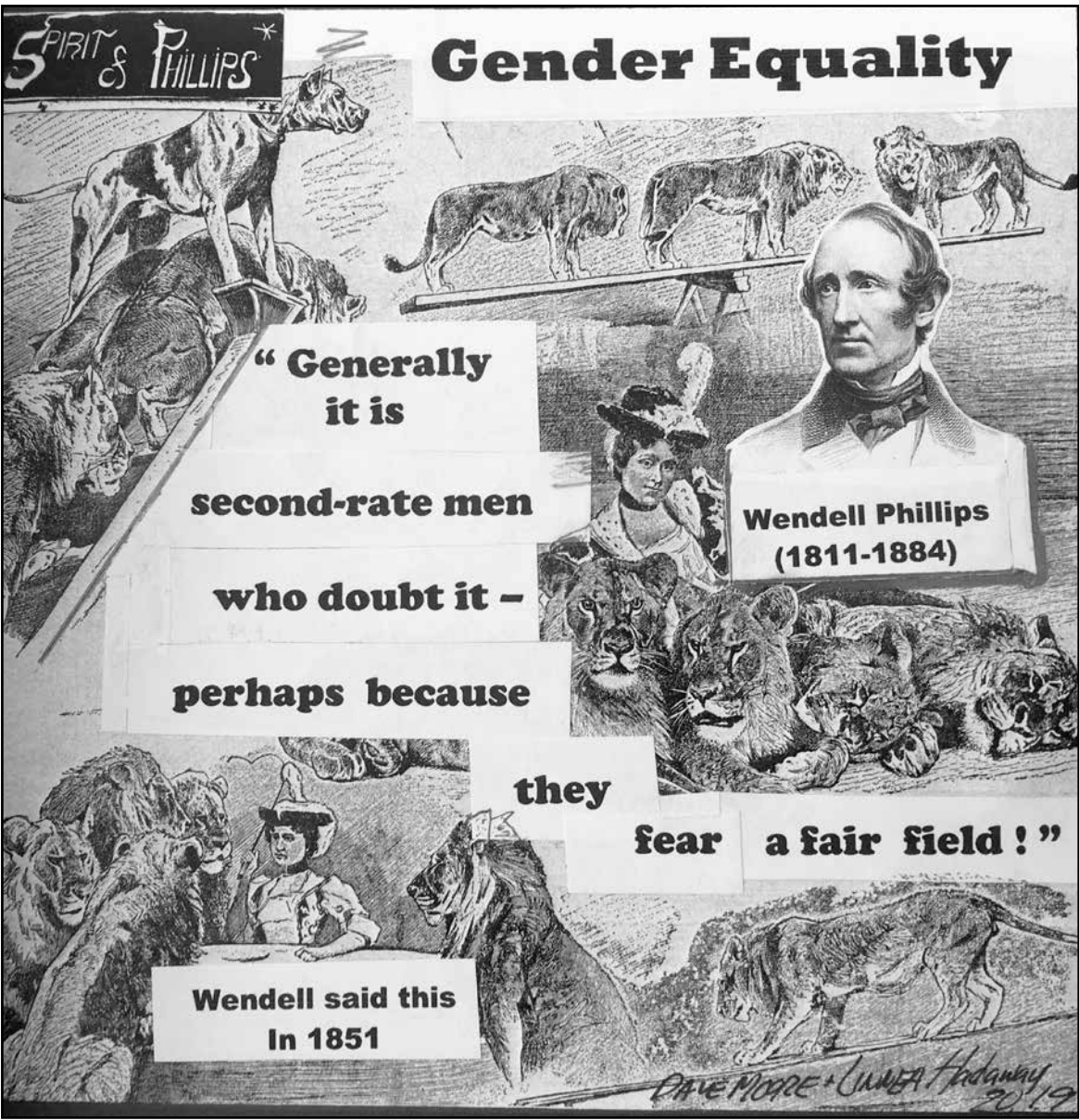
FOR ADULTS: After a chapel service, guests may receive a hot meal, clothing, hygiene products and a blanket. (* Guests must arrive by CHAPEL time noted)

Thursday afternoons	Tuesday nights
12:00p Quilt/layette sign-ups (-12:30)	5:30p Set Free 12 Step
Christian video (-1:00)	*7:00p CHAPEL*
Child care for attendees	8:00p Meal, women's clothes
1:00p CHAPEL	4th Tue - BIG DINNER - 6p-7:30p
2:00p Meal, women's & kids' clothes	Friday nights
Sunday nights	3:30p Christian movies
4:30p Bible study	5:30p Bible study
6:00p CHAPEL	*7:00p CHAPEL*
7:00p Meal, men's clothes	8:00p Meal, men's clothes

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OPINION & COMMENTARY



Raise Your Voice
Blessed community

By PETER MOLENAAR
Feb. 11, 2019...

I would brave the slippery streets, with the ongoing sixth mass species extinction in mind, in order to participate in the public visioning phase of the HOTB Mayday Parade. This was to be the last opportunity to make a modest appearance.

The chairs of the Avalon meeting room were well occupied to receive Sandy Spieler's guidance. As it turned out, Sandy had been entitled to choose this year's theme, and rightfully so. In keeping with Martin Luther King's intent, she chose: "Blessed Community."

To develop this theme, the gathering was tasked to a rotating series of workshops, set in the auditorium. My first stop was captioned: "Barriers to a Blessed community." The tally of square



sticker tag commentary was to reveal an old question of causality: Is the human condition a consequence of "human nature," or is human nature a reflection of social systems?

An appropriate MLK quote: "This country has socialism for the rich, and rugged individualism for the poor." Hmm...

For example, consider the historic cost of U.S. interventions in support of brutal Central American regimes – regimes now corrupted by drug cartels and street gangs who will rape your mother lest she flee – flee to the border, only to have her baby stolen and placed in a cage. Imperialism costs a lot.

Moving on to the next workshop...

The question: What influence do the elements of the ground below and sky above, the river and trees, have upon the Blessed Community? Regarding trees, with sticker tags in hand, I wrote: Material formation responding to external stimuli, in order to sus-

tain and replicate itself. Yes, the biological definition of life reads like a poem.

Somehow I am reminded here of a white-angel-face MAGA teen who saw fit to taunt a Native elder. Oh, so we have young "right to lifers" who worship a man who deemed arms sales to "Saudi friends" as good business, even as the images of dead and dying Yemeni children were before us. Such is the nature of the "Trump effect."

Yet, we do have a blessed community. We have entered the room of Ilhan Omar, whose spirit of opposition to all forms of oppression is evident. Note: Certainly at this juncture, regarding the ongoing dispossession and oppression of Palestinians, there can be no Israeli exceptionalism. Period.

And so then...

The HOTB gathering reconvened to hear each voice. In essence, the Marxist in the room stated: For some 200,000 years, empathy and altruism prevailed because the matriarchal circle which formed around the fire prevailed. Let us keep the faith.

Letter to the Editor
Stop demonizing Ilhan and let it be a lesson learned

BY DEAN ZIMMERMAN

South Africa had a policy of Apartheid. Lots of people boycotted, marched and protested what was going on in South Africa. South African Officials were chosen in a democracy – well, a democracy for whites, not Colored, Blacks or Indians. Nobody ever said you are anti-South African for protesting this.

Mississippi had a policy of Jim Crow. Lots of people boycotted, marched and protested what was going on in Mississippi. Mississippi officials were chosen in a democracy – well a democracy for whites, not Blacks. Nobody ever said you are anti-Mississippi for protesting this.

Israel is a country which embraces, for lack of a better word, apartheid; it is even complete with a wall. But to point this out, to boycott or protest is somehow anti-Semitic.

• Recently, a 60 year old woman with a long history of progressive activism and who is a convert to Judaism said to me, "That was very white of you." Hmm," she said, "that is a funny expression, I wonder where it comes from." She really had no idea that it was a racist phrase, and was surprised about its origin when I pointed it out to her.

• When I was working in the backcountry of Mississippi in the 1960s, I used the phrase "by the way." A very devout Christian woman asked me to stop taking the name of God in vain. What??? In this woman's thinking, because Jesus said, "I am the way....", therefore the word "way" was synonymous with "God". Wow, I did not see that one coming. Did that make me anti-Christian?

I have seen in any number of posts on Facebook, words to the effect: "Ilhan Omar knew that she was using anti-semitic language." We cannot really know what others know. Really, we can't.

Let us lighten up and help one another to grow and to confront our own racism and the institutional racism that surrounds us, and stop demonizing our friends and neighbors. Everything I now know, I once did not know, I'm assuming that is true for everyone, except the self-righteous of course.

Dean Zimmerman is a former member of the Minneapolis City Council.

Editor's note: Readers are cautioned that quotes taken out of the context of whole conversations can be misleading, so further reading of whole encounters is recommended. Following her initial statement on Twitter, Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar said her intention was never to offend "my constituents or Jewish Americans as a whole. ... This is why I unequivocally apologize. At the same time, I reaffirm the problematic role of lobbyists in our politics, whether it be AIPAC, the NRA or the fossil fuel industry. It's gone on too long and we must be willing to address it."

America is so racist that to protest racism, such as not standing for the National Anthem, is equated with protesting against America itself. And it seems, that to protest against apartheid in Israel is now equated with being anti-Israel or anti-Jewish. I hear people criticize folks for having a blind eye to Ilhan Omar's anti-Semitism; ironic how these are the same people who have a blind eye to the apartheid in Israel.

Yes, anti-Semitism is alive and well in the USA. and getting uglier every day, along with your run of the mill racism.

I believe Ilhan Omar's use of the word Hypnotism was unfortunate and totally innocent. Not everyone is aware that the Nazis promoted an older idea that Jews, somehow, had some magical power to hypnotize people. A better word would have been "duped". She now knows something that she did not know before. I like that in a congressperson.

Not everyone knows every hidden meaning and nuisance of every phrase in the English language. A couple of examples:

• Not everyone knows that the term "paddywagon" has to do with hauling away the drunken Irishmen.

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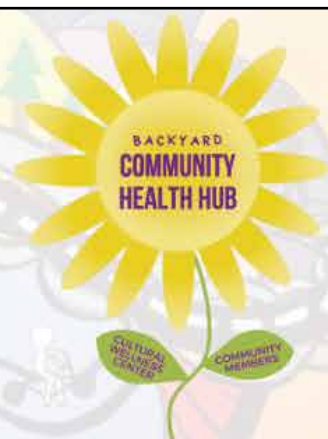
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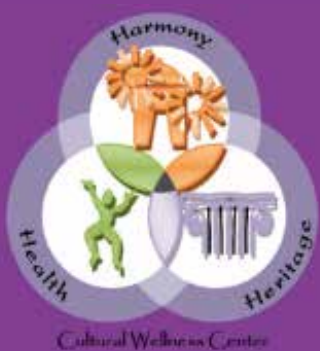


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